UPROARQUS FUN IN COURT. The Very Funny Editor of a Funny

Paper Sued for Libel. ERIE, Pa., Nov. 19. Never in the judicial annals of Erie county has the Quarter Sessions furnished such exquisite humor as the term of court now holding. Among the indictments found by the Grand Jury were three for criminal libel, the defendants being John Boyer, editor of the Daily Leuchtthurm, and Messrs. Frank Weiss and Henry Herbst, editors of the Weekly Sonntagsgast, a humorous and illustrated weekly. The prosecutor is John Firch, a young member of the Young Men's Christian Association and of the Law and Order League. Firch had played the part of amateur detective in the League's campaign against the liquor dealers, and the funny paper published a cartoon representing an artistic gallows, with a strangled corpse attachment, bearing a strong resemblance to Firch. The deepest interest is manifested in the legal proceedings, the Young Men's Christian Association being arrayed on the one side and the entire German element on the other. The latter were dismayed at the opening of the Sessions by the District Attorney claiming an ancient right to "stand aside" any juror called until the box was filled with men acceptable to the Commonwealth, the standing aside being independent of the peremptory challenges, and allowable to the extent of standing aside the entire panel, practically enabling the Commonwealth to get a jury of its own selection. Such a practice was unknown in the Erie courts. The District Attorney showed that the right existed in an unrepealed statute of King Edward I., enacted in the ninth century, and sustained as good law by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, because the statute has never been repealed by Parliament or Legislature. The Court had no alternative but to rule in favor of the District Attorney, and, in consequence, no German or Irishman could get into the box on the liquor trials. This was a blue prospect for the editors, and naught but conviction stared them in the face

is the editor of the funny paper, Frank Weiss. To look at him one would naturally suppose him to be an ascetic, his sombre expression being strongly suggestive of self-abnegation and funerals. But, withal, Weiss is the most comical person within the purview of the court. While sitting in court, with features of imperturbable gravity, he conceived the idea of turning the whole proceedings into ridicule, and converting tragedy into travesty. On the second morning after the Judge had ruled in favor of the "stand aside" claim, Weiss convulsed everybody by coming into court with an armful of ancient legal literature, obtained by ransacking every law library in the city, and asserting a right, under the ruling of the Court, to established his innocence by ordeal, or trial by combat. He contended that if unrepealed ancient procedure is good law his claim to demand the "wagere of battle" was as just and equitable as the "stand aside" privilege. Shrieks of laughter followed the sad-faced man's demand, irresistibly comical in itself, but the more exquisite from the fact that he is a little, attennuated, weak-chested, asthmatic weighing 98 pounds, while his adversary is a herculean|Christian who tips the scale at 200 pounds, and before whom in a personal encounter the funny eaitor would melt away like the hoar frost under the morning sun. Weiss has carefully drawn up all his rights under the unrepealed laws, and he proposes to make this judicial district sick of King Edward the First. These alleged rights are:

he can demand the establishment of his innocence by offering to plunge his arm in boiling oil, pick up red-hot iron, or walk barefoot over nine red-hot ploughshares, and that if he sustain no hurt by the operation his innocence will be proved, and the costs belong to the prosecutor. But this test, after mature deliberation,he will waive. "All that remains," says Wiess,"is to demand the trial by combat, and may God defend the guiltless." He describes the procedure of this combat as follows, producing ancient authority in its support: The Judges and clergy are to assemble on a given day, and before them the accused Y Carpantaur Sow that the Sam Can B Atacht person must fling down his glove and declare his intention to defend the same with his for inditement founde Against him at Sepbody. The prosecutor will then pick it up and announce his readiness to make good the in my hands an Execution against the Sa appeal, body for body. Then both men will bring out their battle axes or javelins, and, kneeling before the Judges, will make oath that the weapons have not been charmed by witcheraft, &c. This done, each is to grasp his axe in the right hand, and the left hand of the other in his left. The accused person to say: "Hear this, O man, who callest thyself John Firch by the name of baptism, that I, who call myself Frank Weiss by the name of baptism, did not libel you, so help me God and all the saints." To which the accuser Sheriff, and may not be familiar with the will reply: "Hear me, O man, whom I hold by the hand, and who callest thyself Frank Weiss bythe name of baptism, that I do hold thee per- | Weeks' form of the olden time. jured, and this I will prove with my body, so help me God and all the saints." At a signal from Judge Galbraith the men will come out of their corners and go for each other, and his cause shall be deemed just who succeeds in carving up the other before the going down of the sun.

of the sun.

The merriment caused by Weiss's claim can better be imagined than described. One stout juror came near having a fit of apoplexy, and another laughed himself into imbedlity. During the roars of laughter Weiss section than those imported from a distance, and the first property which is rapidly acquiring an excellent reputation. The trees grown in this elimate are certainly better suited to this section than those imported from a distance, and the first property is a property to have at length bestood without a smile on his face, a picture of solid, substantial misery. While conscious of the absurdity of his claims and the impossibility of substantiating them, Weiss at all times. Orders by mail for trees from at all times. Orders by mail for trees from a transfer of the fact. made the appeal with a tragic earnestness responsible parties will receive prompt atthat almost induced convulsions. The upshot is likely to be that the case will be laughed out of court.

Important Notice.

CITY TAXES .- Collector Patton desires us to call attention to the fact that Taxes are now due, and to state that he will proceed against all delinquents after December 1st. So come forward at once, and thereby save time, expense and annoyance. The law is imperative, and the Collector is going to en-

Handley's Temple of Music—Pianos market (2) less than factory prices, for cash, and Organs. C. W. Handley & Co., corner of and save agent's commission. Call on II. Date of the commission of th

Missourt News.

Corn has dropped to 30 cents per bushel at Maysville. -Hunting is said to be good in the Mis-

couri bottoms. -Hannibal has a post of the Grand Army STOVES.

of the Republic. -Perry county claims to have panthers

-Pierce City merchants are shipping large -The hog law was passed in Carroll coun-

y by a large majority. -The Vissouri Bar Association will meet

at Sedalia December 27. -The Butler Oil Company commenced bor-

ing at Adram last week. -Sedalia has five merchant milis, doing business of \$400,000 a year.

-Pecans are worth \$2 per bushel at Rich Hill and hickory puts 75 cents.

-Lafayette and Vernon counties adopted the hog law at the last election. -Howell county increased her vote this

year to 1,650, from 1,400 in 1880. -The cars are not likely to run to West Plains before the first of March.

—The El Dorado News says two coal banks are in full blast near that place.

-The citizens of De Soto support a kindergarten school by subscription.

—L. G. Johnson sold his farm of 188 acres in Platte county for \$7,000, recently. -Barry county's total vote this year is 2,658, an increase of over 200 since 1880.

—The apple crop in Lafayette county is worth as much this year as the wheat crop. -Real estate to the value of \$51,000 changed hands in Johnson county recently at advanced

-Messrs, Durkee & Stout have at their catle ranch in Vernon county 800 head of feed-

—Howell county decided by 91 majority over two-thirds of all the votes cast to build

a court house. -Joplin has grown so fast that with 1,500 children of school age she has school room

for only about 700. -The proposition to remove the county seat of Stoddard county from Bloomfield to Dexter was defeated.

-John Reddick, of Perry county, Ohio, has bought S. McBurney's farm near Odessa, 100

The saddest-looking man attending court cres, at \$50 per acre. -More apples have been shipped this year

from Liberty than ever before, within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. -The wheat crop of Missouri looks more promising now than it did this time last year,

and there is a good deal more of it. -Weston has to ship apples by the car-load in bulk, because barrels cannot be ob-tained fast enough to meet the demand.

—The vote on the removal of the court house in Stoddard county from Bloomfield to Dexter stood for removal 1,173, against -A tract of land near Pierce City, which was bought a few years ago at \$10 per acre,

was sold to a Tennesseean the other day for \$60 per acre. -A Holden girl began canning tomatoes

with never a one in sight. The tomato juice

-John Gunn, of Dunklin county, recently picked 332 pounds of dry clean cotton in a day, and says he will bet that he can pick 68 pounds more than that in one day.

An Old Time Sheriff's Return.

[From the West Plains Journal.]

THOMASVILLE, Sept. 25, 1882. Ed. Journal-In looking over some old papers my eye fell upon the following return of a Sheriff, written in a very bold, plain hand, which you are at liberty to publish if First-The "ordeal of fire." He claims that your columns are not otherwise too much crowded. Do not destroy its beauty and symmetry by omitting any of its orthography. I send a literal copy:

To John Buford Esquear

by the Circuit Aturne in me investead by Law and at the Request of J. R. Woodside Circuit atturne I Gamblin Weeks Sheriff of Raynolds County theare preseants A Sumomans to you as A Garnesheear to Bee and appeare before the Hounreable the Judge of the neXt turme tharof at A court to be Healdean at Centursvill in Aprile the 1852 than an thare to Anto Satisfy a Judgement and execution that tembear turm A d 1850 for Witch I Now have James Carpantar this 26th day of Septeam-

bear for Collection GAMBLIN WEEKS Sheriff Raynold County Mo On the back of the foregoing legal docu ment was the following indorsement: This Garnesheer Searved on Mr John Bu-

ford Esq by Leavean him A Copy on 26 day of Septeambear A d 1851 an All saw Redean it to him by me Gamblin Weeks Sheriff fees to \$1

As Howell and Texas counties have quite a lot of good men who desire the office of forms of Sheriff's return, I thought I would submit to their consideration Gamblin

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If you do, we can give you no better advice than to call on A. K. Sutton, proprietor of the Arcadia Valley Nursery. He has Ap-

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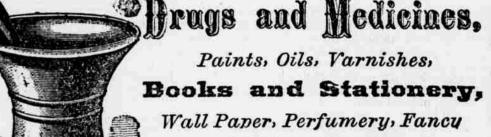
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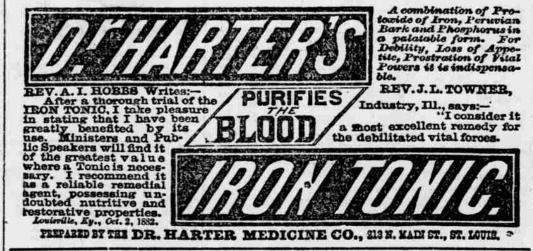
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Stray Notice.

Taken up by William B. Smith, of Arcadi Township, and posted before Joseph Huff, a Justice of the Peace of Liberty Township of Iron county, Mo., on the sixth day of November, 1882, one flea-bitten Gray Mare, 10 or 12 years old, and one Bay Mule one year old, No other marks or brands perceivable Appraised at \$75, by John Dunn, G. W. Purkley and Carroll Smith.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of my Stray Book.

Given under my hand this 10th day of No-rember, 1882 JOSEPH HUFF, Justice of the Peace.

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Cashier. For young lady boarders will be for the present, per session of five months, \$75.00—payable in advance. Terms for instruction in music, foreign languages, drawing, painting and or-namental handiwork can be had by applying as below.

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SELECT DAY SCHOOL in which the usual branches of sound and practical education are carefully imparted.

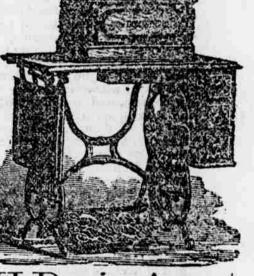
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roduces surprising results.

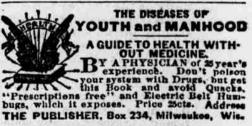
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